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Reserve College in 1826, and refounded as Adelbert College of Western Reserve University in 1882. The School of Medicine was founded in 1843, the School of Pharmacy in 1882 and the College for Women in 1888. In 1892, the School of Law, the Graduate School and the Dental School were founded. The Library School was founded in 1904.

THE actual number of law schools in the United States only increased from 102 to 118 in the decade from 1902 to 1912, according to figures compiled at the U. S. Bureau of Education, but the number of students studying law in these schools increased from 13,912 to 20,760 in same period. There were 3,524 graduates of law schools in 1902 and 4,394 last year. Law students, having a collegiate degree, doubled in the ten years. Financially the law schools show a remarkable advance. The endowment funds increased from half a million to nearly two million dollars; the grounds and buildings tripled in value; and the total income in 1912 was \$1,368,000, as against \$523,000 in 1902. The 387,000 volumes in the law-school libraries of 1902 had grown to 936,000 in 1912.

DR. FREDERIC LYMAN WELLS, assistant in pathological psychology at the McLean Hospital, is conducting a course of lectures and discussions on "Pathological Psychology" at Harvard University.

DR. FREDERICK G. DONNAN, F.R.S., has been appointed to the chair of general chemistry at University College, London, recently vacated by Sir William Ramsay, F.R.S.

DR. WILLIAM J. DAKIN, F.R.S., at present assistant professor at London University, has been appointed professor of biology at the University of Western Australia, Perth. Dr. Alexander D. Ross, of Scotland, has been appointed professor of mathematics and physics in the same institution.

#### DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

##### A PLAN FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

JUDGING by the number of bequests and endowments directed toward that end, the

furthering of medical research is an attractive field for philanthropic endeavor if not for public investment. As one of the rank and file who are working toward the advancement of medical science I would suggest that no method of encouraging such research has heretofore been wholly successful. The foundation of institutes for this purpose is effective in case of the favored few who happen to be reached, but for most scientists (including the clinical variety), who are engaged in teaching in medical schools, who constitute the great proportion of the working force, such foundations are of little assistance.

The most effective plan would seem to be that by which actual accomplishment is rewarded without unduly favoring any one. Such a result could be achieved by the simple expedient of endowing the periodicals devoted to the publication of research so that contributed articles could be paid for according to their merit. Such an arrangement would obviate the most discouraging feature of working in many institutions, the feeling that unusual effort is, from a selfish point of view, not merely futile but even detrimental, in that leisure for reading, recreation and family life is sacrificed without compensating gain.

The plan in operation would be simplicity itself. Rewards would go automatically to those who earned them. The chief difficulty seemingly would be to secure editorial boards fair minded enough to decide justly upon the merits of each contribution, but that difficulty would be by no means insurmountable. In any case to assign a value to a given piece of research would be much easier than to forecast which of a dozen men would be accomplishing the most effective work ten years later, a forecast which, as a matter of fact, has to be made in each instance, before a desirable research or teaching position can justly be assigned.

It is recognized that the best endeavor can not be bought, and that the best rewards of a scientific career are not pecuniary—"but that is another story!" Whatever merit there is in financial encouragement would seem best

to be secured by some such as the foregoing plan.

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#### GRANA DE BRASILE

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: I should be glad to learn what grain and what region were meant by "grana de Brasile" in the 1193 commercial treaty between the "Bononienses" and "Ferrarienses" copied by Muratori into Vol. 2 of his "Antiquitates Italicae," p. 844. He mentions (p. 488) the repetition of the same item in a "charta" of 1198.

Capmany's Spanish work on the early shipping arts, etc., of Barcelona copies in Vol. 2 several thirteenth century Catalan tariff lists, three of which (the earliest 1221) for that and other parts, respectively mention, among miscellaneous commodities, "Carrega de Brasil," "faix de bresil" and "cargua de brazil." The usual impost seems to have been two solidos. One of these lists mentions "grana" unqualified. There seems nothing to indicate what material was or was not meant, except the slight negative value of that reference.

It is interesting to see the variations of orthography in these lists, duplicating those of the Brazil west of southern Ireland on the fourteenth and fifteenth century maps, though Fra Mauro adds berzil and the more southern apparently imitative Brazils (Terciera and others) exhibit further vagaries of spelling. The first appearance of Brazil in geography seems to be, so far as reported, south of west of Limerick on the 1325 map of Dalorto.

Was it thence that the "grain" of 1193 and 1198 was supposed to have come? It can hardly be an error for dyes or dye woods, though both grain and dye wood may have been associated with the idea and name of Brazil, as we still write both India-ink and India-rubber.

W. H. BABCOCK

#### CONCERNING GOVERNMENT APPLICATION BLANKS

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: In former times when one wished to institute a comparison between the various classes of liars, he was accustomed to say "he lies like a horse-thief," or "he lies like a tombstone." Now, however,

those of us who are connected with the teaching profession are given to saying "he lies like a testimonial."

It seems a little too bad that one's natural tendency towards mendacity should be accelerated by no less a person than Uncle Sam. Some time ago I was asked to fill out a blank for an applicant for a teaching position in the Philippine Islands, and among other questions asked me were the following:

8. Is the applicant now, or has he ever been, addicted to the use of intoxicating beverages, morphine or opium?

14. Can you state positively that the applicant's character is unimpeachable, and his reputation for sobriety and morality unquestionably good?

The printed directions state that all questions must be answered and that to say "I don't know" is unsatisfactory. Now I feel confident that the young lady who did me the honor to ask me for a testimonial has not been addicted to the use of intoxicating beverages, morphine, or opium; but I could not make this statement as a positive fact about her or any other acquaintance of mine. Again, I believe the applicant's character to be unimpeachable, but I can not state positively that such is the case. This is a world of surprises and disappointments. I am most optimistic, but not sufficiently so to answer these questions in the affirmative. May we not hope that our new president-elect will take measures to relieve the tender consciences of college professors from the great strain that these government blanks put upon them?

JAMES S. STEVENS

UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

#### SCIENTIFIC BOOKS

*Richtlinien des Entwicklungs- und Vererbungsproblems.* By ALFRED GREIL, Professor of Anatomy, Innsbruck. Jena, Gustav Fischer. 1912. 2 parts.

The crude evolutionism of Bonnet gave place to the epigenesis of C. F. Woeff, and this, too indefinite to give sufficient explanation of the phenomena of cell differentiation, adaptation and inheritance, in turn was supplanted by a newer preformationism, at first